

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to postsecondary education; amending s.

3 1001.44, F.S.; providing criteria for use of the

4 designation "technical college"; amending s. 1002.34,

5 F.S.; providing for a charter technical career center to

6 use the designation "charter technical college"; amending

7 s. 1004.02, F.S.; providing a definition of postsecondary

8 adult vocational program; amending s. 1007.22, F.S.;

9 revising provisions relating to establishment of

10 interinstitutional mechanisms by public postsecondary

11 educational institutions; amending s. 1007.23, F.S.;

12 providing that the statewide articulation agreement

13 between secondary and postsecondary education include

14 certain credits earned; providing that the statewide

15 articulation agreement govern admission of certain

16 graduates from career centers; revising terminology;

17 requiring the State Board of Education to establish

18 articulated career paths for specific professions;

19 requiring career paths to provide credit for certain

20 programs in public and private institutions and for

21 certain experiential learning; amending s. 1009.50, F.S.;

22 authorizing certain students in postsecondary career

23 certificate programs to receive Florida Public Student

24 Assistance Grants; creating s. 1009.521, F.S.; creating

25 the GED Success Scholarship Program; providing for

26 administration; providing funding subject to the General

27 Appropriations Act; providing eligibility criteria;

28 providing for transmittal of funds; providing for

29 reporting; providing for rulemaking; creating s. 1011.802,

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 1 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

F.S.; establishing the School District Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program; authorizing a school district direct-support organization to solicit funds and establish a separate career center capital facilities matching account for private contributions; providing for match by state appropriations; providing for a portion of the cost of a facility construction project to be contributed by a school district; providing State Board of Education requirements relating to capital outlay budget requests; providing for reversion of funds; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to collect and assess articulation agreements and identify career center programs that may articulate to certain degree programs; requiring recommendations; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 1001.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

1001.44 Career centers.--

(5) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD CAREER CENTER PROGRAM DELIVERY.--

(a) A district school board with an established career center as part of the district school system may enter into an articulation agreement for the delivery of specified associate in applied science degree programs.

(b) A career center that offers a postsecondary adult vocational program designed to articulate into an associate in applied science degree program and enters into an articulation

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 2 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

59 agreement for the delivery of such an associate in applied
60 science degree program may use the designation "technical
61 college."

62 Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 1002.34,
63 Florida Statutes, to read:

64 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.--

65 (20) DESIGNATION AS A "TECHNICAL COLLEGE".--A charter
66 technical career center that offers a postsecondary adult
67 vocational program designed to articulate into an associate in
68 applied science degree program and enters into an articulation
69 agreement for the delivery of such an associate in applied
70 science degree program may use the designation "technical
71 college."

72 Section 3. A new subsection (28) is created and added to
73 section 1004.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

74 1004.02 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

75 (28) "Postsecondary adult vocational program" is a job
76 preparatory program, excluding continuing workforce education,
77 through which a student receives a vocational certificate upon
78 completion of instruction.

79 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1007.22, Florida
80 Statutes, is amended to read:

81 1007.22 Articulation; postsecondary institution
82 coordination and collaboration.--

83 (3) Public postsecondary educational institutions ~~serving~~
84 ~~the same students in a geographic and service area~~ are encouraged
85 to establish appropriate interinstitutional mechanisms to achieve
86 cooperative planning and delivery of academic programs and
87 related services, share a high-cost instructional facility and

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 3 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

equipment, coordinate credit and noncredit outreach activities, have access to each other's library and media holdings and services, and provide cooperative campus activities and consultative relationships for the discussion and resolution of interinstitutional issues and problems which discourage student access or transfer.

Section 5. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1007.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

(1) The State Board of Education shall establish in rule a statewide articulation agreement that governs:

(a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary education; including credit earned through high school career and technical education majors and career academies;

(b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from community colleges and state universities;

(c) Admission of applied technology diploma program graduates from community colleges or career centers;

(d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate in applied science degree graduates from community colleges;

(e) The use of acceleration mechanisms, including nationally standardized examinations through which students may earn credit;

(f) General education requirements and statewide course numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; ~~and~~

(g) Articulation among programs in nursing; ~~and~~

(h) Admission of postsecondary vocational, technical, or career education certificate or diploma graduates from school district career centers or charter technical career centers.

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 4 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

117 (3) The articulation agreement must guarantee the statewide
118 articulation of appropriate workforce education ~~development~~
119 programs and courses between school districts and community
120 colleges and specifically provide that every applied technology
121 diploma graduate must be granted the same amount of credit upon
122 admission to an associate in science degree or associate in
123 applied science degree program unless it is a limited access
124 program. Preference for admission must be given to graduates who
125 are residents of Florida. By March 1, 2007, the State Board of
126 Education shall establish an articulated career path for specific
127 workforce education professions, including, but not limited to,
128 the program areas of criminal justice, business, nursing, and
129 allied health. The career paths shall provide for the
130 articulation of:

131 (a) Credit earned in vocational, technical, or career
132 certificate or diploma programs to associate in science degrees
133 or associate in applied science degrees.

134 (b) Credit earned in associate in science degree programs
135 to credit in baccalaureate degree programs.

136 (c) Credit awarded by public and private institutions.

137 (d) Credit for experiential learning associated with
138 minimum training requirements for employment.

139 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
140 1009.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

141 1009.50 Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program;
142 eligibility for grants.--

143 (2)(a) State student assistance grants through the program
144 may be made only to degree-seeking students who enroll in at
145 least 6 semester hours, or the equivalent per term, or students

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 5 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

146 who enroll in a postsecondary career certificate program of at
147 least 450 clock hours, and who meet the general requirements for
148 student eligibility as provided in s. 1009.40, except as
149 otherwise provided in this section. The grants shall be awarded
150 annually for the amount of demonstrated unmet need for the cost
151 of education and may not exceed an amount equal to the average
152 prior academic year cost of tuition fees and other registration
153 fees for 30 credit hours at state universities or such other
154 amount as specified in the General Appropriations Act, to any
155 recipient. A demonstrated unmet need of less than \$200 shall
156 render the applicant ineligible for a state student assistance
157 grant. Recipients of the grants must have been accepted at a
158 state university, ~~or~~ community college, school district career
159 center, or charter technical career center authorized by Florida
160 law. A student is eligible for the award for 110 percent of the
161 number of credit hours required to complete the program in which
162 enrolled, except as otherwise provided in s. 1009.40(3).

163 Section 7. Section 1009.521, Florida Statutes, is created
164 to read:

165 1009.521 GED Success Scholarship.--

166 (1) The GED Success Scholarship Program is created to
167 establish a scholarship program to encourage students who
168 successfully complete a GED program and are awarded a Florida
169 high school diploma to attend a program offered by an accredited
170 public or private technical or career center or a community
171 college program identified by the Department of Education as a
172 program that provides a career path to one of the top 15
173 occupations in number of annual openings as listed on the Agency
174 for Workforce Innovation's Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 6 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

175 List or on a regional targeted occupations list at the time of
176 the student's initial enrollment.

177 (2) The scholarship program shall be administered by the
178 department pursuant to the requirements of this section and rules
179 of the State Board of Education.

180 (3) Subject to the General Appropriations Act, the
181 department shall allocate any appropriated funds each year to
182 eligible students in the amount of one \$500 scholarship per
183 eligible student. The scholarships shall be awarded by the
184 department on a first come, first served basis to eligible
185 recipients until all funds specifically designated for the GED
186 Success Scholarships for that fiscal year have been allocated.

187 (4) A student who meets all of the following requirements
188 is eligible to receive a scholarship pursuant to this section:

189 (a) The student is a Florida resident for tuition purposes
190 pursuant to s. 1009.21.

191 (b) The student has successfully completed all sections of
192 the GED tests which results in the award of a Florida high school
193 diploma.

194 (c) The student has enrolled in a program identified by the
195 department as a program in an accredited public or private
196 technical or career center or community college that provides a
197 career path to one of the top 15 occupations in number of annual
198 openings as listed on the Agency for Workforce Innovation's
199 Florida Statewide Targeted Occupations List or on a regional
200 targeted occupations list at the time of the student's initial
201 enrollment.

202 (d) The student has submitted an application for the
203 scholarship to the department, in the manner prescribed by the

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

department, after December 1 for the following school year and before June 1 of the year in which funding is requested.

(5) (a) Payment of GED Success Scholarships shall be transmitted to the director or president of the eligible institution, or his or her representative, in advance of the registration period. Institutions shall notify students of the amount of their awards.

(b) Each participating institution shall report to the department by the established date the eligible students to whom scholarship moneys were disbursed each academic term. Each institution shall also report to the department necessary demographic and eligibility data for such students.

(c) Each accredited private institution that receives moneys through the GED Success Scholarship Program shall prepare a biennial report that includes a financial audit, conducted by an independent certified public accountant, of the institution's administration of the program and a complete accounting of the moneys allocated to the institution for the program. The report shall be submitted to the department no later than March 1 of every even numbered year.

(6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 relating to the administration of the scholarship program.

Section 8. Section 1011.802, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1011.802 School District Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program.--

(1) There is established the School District Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program for the purpose of

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 8 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

assisting career centers in building high priority instructional
and community-related capital facilities consistent with s.
1001.44, including common areas connecting such facilities. The
direct-support organizations that serve the school districts may
solicit gifts from private sources which are eligible for state
matching funds for capital facilities. For purposes of this
section, private sources of funds shall not include any federal,
state, or local government funds that a school district may
receive.

(2) The School District Career Center Facility Enhancement
Challenge Grant Program shall provide funds to match private
contributions for the development of high priority instructional
capital facilities, including common areas connecting such
facilities, within the career centers.

(3) Within the direct-support organization of each school
district, a separate career center capital facilities matching
account must be established for the purpose of providing matching
funds from the direct-support organization's unrestricted
donations or other private contributions for the development of
high priority instructional capital facilities, including common
areas connecting such facilities. The Legislature may appropriate
funds for distribution to a school district after matching funds
are certified by the direct-support organization and school
district to the Department of Education. The Public Education
Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund shall not be used as
the source of the state match for private contributions.

(4) A project may not be initiated unless all private funds
for planning, construction, and equipping the facility have been
received and deposited in the direct-support organization's

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 9 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

262 matching account and the state's share for the minimum amount of
263 funds needed to begin the project has been appropriated by the
264 Legislature. The Legislature may appropriate the state's matching
265 funds in one or more fiscal years for the planning, construction,
266 and equipping of an eligible facility. However, these
267 requirements shall not preclude the school district or direct-
268 support organization from expending available funds from private
269 sources to develop a prospectus, including preliminary
270 architectural schematics or models, for use in its efforts to
271 raise private funds for a facility. Additionally, any private
272 sources of funds expended for this purpose are eligible for state
273 matching funds if the project is awarded grant funds under this
274 section.

275 (5) To be eligible to participate in the School District
276 Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, a
277 school district, through its direct-support organization, shall
278 raise contributions from private sources equal to one-third of
279 the total cost of a facility construction project. After raising
280 such contributions, the school district shall be eligible for a
281 match by a state appropriation equal to the amount raised for a
282 facility construction project up to one-third of the cost of the
283 project, subject to the General Appropriations Act. Another one-
284 third of the total cost must be provided from the school
285 district's local capital funds.

286 (6) If the state's share of the required match is
287 insufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (5), the
288 school district shall renegotiate the terms of the contribution
289 with the donors. If the project is terminated, each private
290 donation, plus accrued interest, shall revert to the direct-

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 10 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

291 support organization for remittance to the donor at the donor's
292 discretion.

293 (7) By September 1 of each year, the State Board of
294 Education shall transmit to the Legislature, in the capital
295 outlay budget request, a list of projects that meet all
296 eligibility requirements to participate in the School District
297 Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program and a
298 budget request that includes the recommended schedule necessary
299 to complete each project.

300 (8) In order for a project to be eligible under this
301 program, it must be survey recommended under the provisions of s.
302 1013.31, included in the school district's 5-year capital
303 improvement plan, and receive prior approval from the State Board
304 of Education.

305 (9) Any project funds that are unexpended after a project
306 is completed shall revert to the school district direct-support
307 organization's career center capital facilities matching account.
308 One-third of such unexpended funds shall be reserved for the
309 school district career center that originally received the
310 private contribution for the purpose of providing private
311 matching funds for future facility construction projects as
312 provided in this section. One-third of such unexpended funds
313 shall be returned to the General Revenue Fund. One-third of such
314 unexpended funds shall be returned to the school district.

315 (10) The surveys, architectural plans, facility, and
316 equipment shall be the property of the participating school
317 district.

318 Section 9. (1) As part of determining the appropriate
319 courses and programs for statewide articulation, the Office of

03-02-06, 6:33pm

Page 11 of 12

Postsecondary Career Education PCB

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V

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall collect, review, and conduct an assessment of all existing statewide articulation agreements and all existing articulation agreements between school district career centers or charter technical career centers and community colleges by September 30, 2006.

(2) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall use the information compiled pursuant to subsection (1) to evaluate the effectiveness of local and statewide interinstitutional articulation agreements and to identify other postsecondary technical or career programs within a school district career center or charter technical career center that may articulate to an associate of science degree program or an associate of applied science degree program on an individual course or block basis for statewide interinstitutional articulation agreements. By December 31, 2006, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.